

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 060

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

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E. O.: 11652: N/A DECON 5/17/74

TAGS: VS, PINT

SUBJ: GVN - PRG BILATERALS: 11 TH PLENARY, MAY 17, 1973

1. SUMMARY: IN THE HOUR- LONG PLENARY HIEU (PRG) TOOK A HALF- POLEMICAL, HALF- DEFENSIVE STANCE, BASING HIMSELF UNSWERVINGLY ON THE PRG SIX POINT PLAN OF APRIL 25. VIEN (GVN), HOWEVER, MADE TWO PROPOSALS SUPPLEMENTING THE GVN PLAN OF THE SAME DATE: HE SUGGESTED FORMATION OF FOUR STUDY GROUPS FOR DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AT THE TALKS, AND, FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE, HE PROPOSED THREE CONCRETE MEASURES TO BE APPLIED TO SVN. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS BY THE PRG WERE NEGATIVE. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE MAY 22. POORLY ATTENDED POST- SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES WERE LARGELY REITERATIONS OF THE PRE- PARED STATEMENTS USING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRG CHIEF DELEGATE HIEU SPOKE FIRST. HIS OPENING PARAGRAPHS CHARGED USAF AND VNAF WITH NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF RECONNAISSANCE AND BOMBING. THESE HAD ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED IN TWO (SIC) MAIN AREAS: BINH LONG- TAY NINH PROVINCES, AND THE AREA FROM LOC NINH TO SA MAT. A NUMBER OF
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ALLEGED USAF ATTACKS MAY 9 MARKED THE FIRST USE OF US AIR POWER IN SVN SINCE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. CONCERNING GENERAL VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT, HIEU CHARGED

THE US AND GVN WITH VIOLATING " AT LEAST" NINETEEN OF ITS TWENTY- THREE ARTICLES. (AMONG ALLEGED VIOLATIONS CITED WERE THE US " DIGUISED MILITARY COMMAND NETWORK FUNCTIONING UNDER COVER OF THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES".) THE GVN HELD " AT LEAST" 200 THOUSAND PRISONERS AND CONFINED 300 THOUSAND OTHER PERSONS IN " CONCENTRATION CAMPS". NIEU ATTACKED THE MAY 12 SPEECH OF PRES. THIEU FOR SEEKING TO DENY THE REALITY OF BOTH THE PRG AND THE THIRD FORCE , IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE AGREEMENT. IN CLOSING HIEU RE- EMPHASIZED THE PRG SIX POINTS OF APRIL 25 AND ITS THREE- POINT PROPOSAL MADE TO THE TPJMC ON MAY 9, AS THE SOLE VIABLE BASES FOR RESOLVING SVN ISSUES.

4. DEPUTY PRIMIN VIEN, CHIEF GVN DELEGATE, BEGAN WITH A LENGTHY, SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF PRG PRECONDITIONS. AS A COUNTERPOISE TO PRG EMPHASIS ON AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE AS THE PROBLEM OF THE MOST URGENT PRIORITY, VIEN TERMED THE PRESENCE OF "300 THOUSAND" NVA TROOPS A THREAT OF FIRST PRIORITY. THE LATTER ISSUE WAS NOT, HOWEVER, POSED BY THE GVN AS A PRECONDITION TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. IN RENEWING THE OFFER OF THE GVN APRIL 25 PROPOSALS AND AFTER CALLING AGAIN FOR PRIVATE TALKS, VIEN PROPOSED FORMATION OF FOUR COMMITTEES. THESE WOULD FUNCTION AS STUDY GROUPS MEETING CONCURRENTLY TO DISCUSS AN ELECTED " REPRESENTATIVE BODY", THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD, THE PROBLEM OF " VIETNAMESE FORCES IN SVN", AND THE PROBLEM OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, RESPECTIVELY.

5. THERE WAS A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF INFORMAL REMARKS. HIEU REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE GVN STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL. VIEN SUGGESTED THREE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN SVN IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CEASEFIRE EFFECTIVE. THESE MEASURES WERE: (A) DELINEATION OF RESPECTIVE ZONES OF CONTROL BY EACH SIDE'S TPJMC DELEGATION; (B) IMMEDIATE TPJMC DEPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT SVN; C) ASSURANCE BY EACH SIDE OF FULL SECURITY FOR, AND COOPERATION WITH, ICCS OPERATIONS. HIEU'S INITIAL REACTION WAS NEGATIVE, BUT TENTATIVELY SO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(ACCORDING TO GVNDEL VIEWS EXPRESSED TO US AFTERWARDS). IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE MAY 22.

6. DAN (GVN) OPENED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TWO SETS OF GVN PROPOSALS PRESENTED TODAY. IN PASSING HE DISMISSED THE PAST PRG DEMAND FOR LOCAL COMMANDERS' MEETINGS AS AN INEFFECTUAL AND INAPPROPRIATE MECHANISM REJECTED EARLY IN THE CEASEFIRE BY THE PRG ITSELF ON THE GROUNDS THAT COMMUNIST FORCES WERE " TOO MOBILE" TO MAKE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT FEASIBLE. DAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE CURRENT KISSINGER- THO TALKS.

7. "QUADRUPLED OBSTRUCTIONANISM" WAS THE DESCRIPTION SAU (PRG) APPLIED TO THE GVN STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL. AS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CEASEFIRE, THE FIVE SUGGESTIONS OF THE PRGDEL, TPJMC ON MAY 11 (SIC) WERE "PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE". SAU PARAPHRASED HIEU'S CRITICISM OF PRES. THIEU'S MAY 12 SPEECH, ADDING THAT REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEGITIMACY AND AUTHENTICITY OF THE PRG WAS A GROSS CONTRAVENTION OF THE AGREEMENT AND A PERETUATION OF THE GVN "WAR POLICY IN US SERVICE".

8. SAU GAVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO TWO ITEMS: ALLEGED UN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER PRG AREAS, AND AN ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE GVN- HELD POLITICAL DETAINEES AS MAINLY "BELONGING TO NEITHER THE GVN NOR THE PRG". ON THE KISSINGER- THO TALKS, SAU CLAIMED THAT THO AND HIEU HAD A LONG CONVERSATION MAY 16 TO REVIEW THE "GRAVE SITUATION" POSED BY "CONTINUALLY INTENSIFIED US AIR ATTACKS". (SAU EMPHASIZED THAT AN ALLEGED US ATTACK ON MAY 12 HAD BECOME KNOWN TO THO ONLY AFTER THE LATTER'S MAY 15 ARRIVAL STATEMENT THREATENING RUPTURE OF THE TALKS IF SUCH INCIDENTS RECURRED).

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